

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. ____

Introduced by: Mahern

A HOUSE RESOLUTION concerning the process of redistricting in the House of Representatives of the Indiana General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Indiana, Article 4, Section 5, requires that the “General Assembly elected during the year in which a federal decennial census is taken shall fix by law the number of Senators and Representatives and apportion them among districts according to the number of inhabitants in each district, as revealed by that federal decennial census.”;

WHEREAS, the Constitution likewise requires that those districts be contiguous;

WHEREAS, the Legislative Council adopted LCR 98-3 on June 6, 1998 which resolved that “each legislative caucus is entitled to a level playing field in terms of the computer software and hardware needed to draw [redistricting] maps that meet federal and state constitutional requirements”;



WHEREAS, a working group made up of legislators and staff from the four caucuses was formed and met on several occasions to advise the Legislative Services Agency on the implementation of LCR 98-3;

WHEREAS, at a meeting attended by every member of the working group held on February 8, 2001, it was unanimously agreed that the assignment of the Legislative Council to the Legislative Services Agency to provide a fair and level playing field had been completed;

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives has been preparing for the redistricting by securing computer hardware, computer software, office space and supplies, training staff and members in the use of this equipment and working with the United States Bureau of the Census with a view towards getting the release of population data as soon as reasonably possible;

WHEREAS, the efforts to secure equipment, space and training has been led by the Legislative Services Agency, which was charged with providing equal support and facilities to the four legislative caucuses of the House and Senate, as well as making information available to the public;

WHEREAS, the members of the House of Representatives wish to acknowledge that the process leading up to the drafting of a redistricting bill to present to the 112th Indiana General Assembly was fair, impartial and complies with the law; THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the Democratic and Republican caucuses of the House of Representatives have had equal access to the people, facilities, equipment, training and educational opportunities, through the Legislative Services Agency, and are



now equally prepared to go forward with the process of drafting legislation to create districts for the election of members of the House of Representatives to the 113th Indiana General Assembly, which districts will comply fully with the law.

SECTION 2. That the Indiana General Assembly will make available to the public, in the State Library, computer software that is identical to the computer software that is available to each of the four caucuses and computer hardware that is comparable to the hardware available to the four caucuses and will also provide for training at the State Library to members of the public so that they can use the map drawing facilities which are made available to them. The employees of the State Library will not, however, be expected to actually help any person create new district maps.

SECTION 3. That the census data from the United States Bureau of the Census has been made available to all four of the caucuses as well as to the public, via the computer hardware and software at the State Library.

SECTION 4. That the units of geography specified in the tapes received by the Legislative Services Agency in January 2001, plus the precinct lines electronically developed by the LSA Block Boundary Program to reconstruct the precinct lines as they were in fact voted (according to the county election officials in the State of Indiana), are to be incorporated by reference in the redistricting legislation and are to be used to define the districts of members to be elected in 2002 (and thereafter until the next decennial census is completed) to the Indiana House of Representatives, to the Indiana Senate and to the United States House of Representatives.

SECTION 5. That in drawing districts for the members of the Indiana General Assembly and the United States House of Representatives, the bill drafters shall make every effort to comply with existing constitutional, statutory and case law.

SECTION 6. That a copy of this resolution shall be entered in the Journal of the House of Representatives and given to each member.

